

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SAJ-01 SAM-01 EB-11

TRSE-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIEP-03 COME-00 FEAE-00

FPC-01 INT-08 OMB-01 SCI-06 STR-08 FRB-03 EA-11 IO-14

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE 3529

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 20721

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: CANADIAN VIEWS ON ECG, IEP AND OECD

REF: OTTAWA 2781

1. SUMMARY. IN RECENT MEETINGS WITH AMBASSADOR TURNER, CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TOWE HAD MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT IF THE ENERGY PLAN PRESENTED TO THE OECD WAS REJECTED BY FRENCH GOVERNMENT, THEREBY PRECLUDING FRENCH PARTICIPATION, THE GOC WOULD PROBABLY HAVE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT JOINING AN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY AGENCY ESTABLISHED OUTSIDE THE OECD. RELUCTANCE OF THE GOC WOULD BE ENHANCED BY THE AS YET UNANNOUNCED VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU TO PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING, WHICH WAS ANTICIPATED FOR THE END OF OCTOBER. THIS IS REGARDED AS AN IMPORTANT NEW INITIATIVE TOWARD THE ADVANCEMENT OF FRENCH AND CANADIAN RELATIONS IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE DAMAGE DONE DURING THE DE GAULLE
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REGIME. END SUMMARY

2. AMBASSADOR TOWE FEELS THAT IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THE OECD WOULD NOT ACCOMMODATE THE ENERGY PACKAGE TO BE ADVANCED IF IT WAS ACCEPTABLE TO THE ECG MEMBERSHIP AND TO THE GOF. THE DANGER OF BLOCKAGE BY ONE OF THE SMALLER NON-ECG MEMBERS OF THE OECD THROUGH THE USE OF A VETO IS NOT REALISTIC.

3. IN THE EVENT THAT THE ENERGY PACKAGE PROFFERED IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO FRANCE, AND CONSIDERING THE HIGH PRIORITY OF THE GOC DESIRE TO RE-ESTABLISH CORDIAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE GOF, IT IS HIS BELIEF THAT THE GOC WOULD HAVE TO RE-ASSESS COMPLETELY THE DESIRABILITY OF JOINING AN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY ENTITY OUTSIDE THE OECD WITHOUT FRANCE AS A MEMBER. THIS LIKELIHOOD WOULD BE EVEN FURTHER REDUCED BY THE IMPACT OF SUCH A DECISION UPON THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF PREMIER TRUDEAU AND THE ANTICIPATED ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL AFTERMATH.

4. TOWE BELIEVES PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF THE ECG AGREEMENT WHICH IS NOW BEING CIRCULATED TO MEMBER DELEGATIONS IS EXCELLENT IN TERMS OF TECHNICAL AND LEGAL CONSTRUCTION, BUT IT IS TOO LONG AND DETAILED FOR THIS POINT IN TIME. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT COULD ACCEPT IT WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL MODIFICATIONS. IT WOULD BE TOWE'S PREFERENCE TO OBTAIN CONCURRENCE ON A FAR MORE SIMPLIFIED AND SHORTER DOCUMENT THAT DEALS WITH SUBSTANTIVE ELEMENTS OF THE UNDERSTANDING AND THE GENERAL FORM OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT THAT IS TO BE SOUGHT AMONG ECG GOVERNMENTS AND WITH THE OECD. THE LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS THAT WILL INEVITABLY RESULT FROM A DOCUMENT OF THIS DETAIL AND COMPLEXITY WILL PROBABLY RETARD ITS EARLY CONSIDERATION AND ACCEPTANCE. FOR EXAMPLE, IT MAY BE UNREALISTIC TO TRY TO DEVELOP EXPLICIT FORMULAS AT THIS POINT, SINCE THESE QUESTIONS COULD BE HANDLED AFTER THE MORE FUNDAMENTAL AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED.

5. AMBASSADOR TOWE SUGGESTED THAT STATEMENTS THAT
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MIGHT BE REGARDED AS PROVOCATIVE ARE NOT BENEFICIAL TO THE MOST CONSTRUCTIVE CONSIDERATION OF THE ECG PROGRAM BY THE OECD COUNCIL. CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT THE ECG ALSO CONSTITUTES THE PRINCIPAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE OECD, THERE IS GOOD ENVIRONMENT FOR ACCEPTANCE OF THE PLAN TO BE PRESENTED. IT THEREFORE SEEMS UNNECESSARY AND POTENTIALLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AT THIS TIME TO MAKE FREQUENT REFERENCE TO THE CREATION OF AN

INDEPENDENT ENERGY ENTITY OUTSIDE THE OECD AS ONE
ALTERNATIVE COURSE OF ACTION.
TURNER

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